



Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilot

Downriver Community Conference, MI

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA Region 5 selected the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) for a Regional Brownfields Pilot. DCC is a municipal collaboration which comprises 17 communities in suburban Detroit. The Brownfield Pilot focuses on sites within the Downriver Area Brownfields Consortium (DABC). Participants include the Cities of Dearborn, Monroe, Riverview, Romulus, Taylor and Trenton, and the Port of Monroe. Industrial disinvestment resulted in the creation of over 700 acres of brownfields. In Monroe alone, about 65 percent of the available industrial property is brownfields. In Riverview, about 75 percent of the available industrial property is brownfields.

OBJECTIVES

DABC's objective is to create a collaborative process for small cities to share financial and technical assistance and achieve their brownfields redevelopment objectives. Unlike many large urban cities, smaller communities lack the financial capacity and ability for obtaining intergovernmental assistance to individually address their brownfields problems. Under the Pilot, DABC will develop

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Downriver Community
Conference, Michigan*

Date of Award:
September 1996

Amount: \$75,000

Site Profile: The Pilot targets a group of areas ranging from urban to suburban communities that often contain soil laced with lead, copper, chromium, and other heavy metals used in manufacturing.

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Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

and test a Redevelopment Model that identifies, investigates, and evaluates the potential future land use of selected brownfields sites within the participating communities. Success will be measured by how many brownfields sites advance through Model stages, and ultimately by the sale and redevelopment of brownfields.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pilot is:

- Identifying and selecting brownfields properties for development. Participating communities have submitted candidate sites to DABC;
- Conducting baseline environmental assessments, an economic feasibility assessment, and cost-benefit analysis for each site;
- Developing a remediation feasibility study on a specific site(s), community involvement program, and ownership transfer plan; and
- Creating a development plan.

LEVERAGING OTHER ACTIVITIES

Experience with the Downriver Community Conference Pilot has been a catalyst for related activities including the following.

Collectively, the cities involved in this project have secured a commitment of more than \$11,000,000 in private and public funding for environmental cleanup and infrastructure development.

The Monroe City Council and the Monroe Port Commission have championed the redevelopment of former industrial sites. The Monroe County Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), a non-profit corporation funded by public and private funds, markets industrial sites across Monroe County. The IDC has made numerous presentations of the City's former industrial sites to potential developers.